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THE FORMAL OPENING OF THE LABORATORY OF THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH.¹

A SKETCH OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH.

FIVE years ago there were in France, Germany, England, Russia and Japan well-equipped and endowed institutions for research in medicine. In this country not one existed. For pure and applied science, all our higher institutions of learning had their laboratories, their corps of instructors and fellowships, and both opportunity and encouragement were given to students to take up original work. But how great the contrast when we turn to medicine, whose problems are related not only to the health but even the life of the race. The poverty of the resources of the medical institutions was truly pitiful. Their laboratories were for the instruction of students and possessed but little equipment beyond what was necessary for this end.

It was at this time that a group of five men met in the Arlington Hotel at Washington just five years ago last week, at the request of the founder of this institute, to consider the question of the establishment of an institution to promote research in medicine. There could be but one opinion, and, at the conference only one was expressed, viz., That the most urgent need existed and that the time was ripe for the foundation of such an institution in this country.

¹ May 11, 1906.